THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Uniform service condition in department of Telecom.

1895. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated uniform service conditions for departmental engineers and engineering officers of telecom factories and directly recruit engineers; if not, reasons therefor;

(b) whether due to lack of such uniform policy the direct recruits are getting advantageous position over their counter-parts in the factories in the matter of promotion and other related matters;

(c) whether there is serious discontent amongst the departmental officers;

(d) whether Government have received representations from Telecom engineering Officers Association;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what further action Government have contemplated to redress the grievances of departmental engineering officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir. There is no difference between the service conditions of Departmental Engineers and directly recruited Engineers of the same grade in Telecom Factories.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f) No, Sir, there is no serious discontent amongst the departmental officers. However, a representation has been received from "Telecom Factories' Engineers Association" regarding the promotional avenues, increments in case of engineering officers acquiring engineering degree etc. This representation is under examination.

There is no recognised association by the name "Telecom Engineering Officers' Association".

Disruption of telephones in Janakpuri exchanges

1896. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephones in Janakpuri exchange remained out of order for about one week during February, 1992;

(b) if so, what was the exact number of such telephones and for how many days they were unserviceable;

(c) what are the reasons for this long disruption;

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that such incidents will not happen in future; and

(e) what is the relief, if any, that is available to consumers for the loss and inconvenience caused by such faults?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only sevently three telephones were affected from 15.2.92 to 22.2.92.

(c) Digging carried out by cable laying agency caused multiple faults in the cable which were repaired after localisation of faults.

(d) Proper liasion is being kept with the cable laying agencies to prevent such faults in future.

(e) Rebate in rental is granted to all cases where interruption is for more than one week.

Theft of telephone cables in Delhi

1897. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi police has recently caught a good number of persons who were involved in telephone cable thefts;

(b) if so, whether the MTNL employees in connivance with other local people have made attempts to steal telephone cables in Delhi;